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**Mission/ Purpose**

Mission: To strengthen the social sector with a talented, prepared workforce.

The Nonprofit Leadership Alliance (formerly American Humanics, Inc.) is a national alliance of colleges, universities and nonprofit organizations dedicated to preparing and certifying future professionals for leadership in America’s diverse and vital array of nonprofit enterprises.

Participation in the Alliance builds on and enhances student’s major course of study at the University of Houston. At graduation, students will receive their baccalaureate degree in addition to the highly respected Nonprofit Leadership Alliance certification and the credential of Certified Nonprofit Professional (CNP) in Nonprofit Management. Some students continue at the university to obtain their CNP credential certification in concert with post-baccalaureate education.

**Words from the NLSA President**

Looking back on my year as the NLSA President, it has been challenging, rewarding, but most of all, inspiring. But we’ve also had a lot of fun!

Our general meetings fostered a community of knowledge, support and fellowship through: resume reviews to yoga sessions, practicing elevator speeches in the elevator, playing in the dirt at a community site visit and realizing our personal life missions,

Together our organization: visited and volunteered at five local nonprofits, planned and executed our annual Fall Retreat at Interfaith Ministries of Greater Houston and prepared our students for pursuing a nonprofit career at the Flo McGee Career Development Institute.

The highlight of my time as President was hosting the annual Alliance Management Institute national NLA conference in Houston this year. We had 31 NLA students work together to fundraise their entire cost of attending the conference while representing the University of Houston and the David M. Underwood Chapter of NLA.

This program has strengthened my personal, educational and professional growth in many different aspects. The student association has given me the confidence, the support and the motivation to become a leader in the nonprofit community.

With a combination of all these elements, I believe that I, rather we, have been prepared with a strong, collaborative, and holistic view to leadership. I am full of energy for the successes and experiences that will unfold for myself, my colleagues and the future of this organization.

It has been an honor to be your President and a fellow member of this incredible organization. Thank you.

- Dancy Lukeman

**Faces of NLA**
The Association of Fundraising Professions (AFP) represents more than 30,000 members in 217 chapters throughout the world, working to advance philanthropy through advocacy, research, education, and certificate programs. The association fosters development and growth of fundraising professionals and promotes high ethical standards in the fundraising profession.

Founded in 2015, the Association of Fundraising Professionals U Houston (AFP-UH) Collegiate Chapter, sponsored by the Greater Houston chapter of AFP, represents 12 founding members devoted to philanthropic causes, enabling individuals and organizations to better serve the diverse communities and people of Houston.

Core Purpose: To expose undergraduate and graduate students to fundraising as a profession, the importance of philanthropy and the vital role of ethics in professional practice.

Mission Statement: The AFP collegiate chapters allow students to identify a cause to support. Learn and apply ethical fundraising principles, and support the cause in which they believe, giving them a solid base of understanding and welcoming them into philanthropic and fundraising communities.

Founding Members: Ashley E. Boone, Aaliyah Cooper, Amy Chittenden, Erin Clayton, Jessica Dominguez, Ashley A. Dorsett, Francheska Durias, Nimra Haroon, Maria Huerta, Brittany Leavitt, Dancy Lukeman, and Diana Pineda

Words from the AFP President

Looking back on this past year, I am so proud of the accomplishments that AFP-UH has seen. For starters, we founded the first collegiate chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals at the University of Houston.

One thing I learned early on in the NLA program was that membership in the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) is valuable in the nonprofit sector. This past year, as I embarked on a new journey as a collegiate AFP member, that lesson held true to me through all my experiences.

Over the past two semesters, we engaged with nonprofit professionals in our community to learn about their career paths and fund development strategies. We raised $700 through a crowdfunding platform to go towards student scholarships and support for a local organization in our community, including scholarships to support merging both NLA student organizations: NLSA and AFP-UH.

The success that we have experienced this year would not have been possible without the commitment and excitement that our members brought to every meeting and activity we took part in. Our student board, helped create a structured and inviting experience for everyone! And our circles, our family and friends, supported us along the way.

I am so thankful for my involvement in this organization and I am excited to see how AFP-UH continues to grow.

- Ashley E. Boone

"Membership in the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) is valuable in the nonprofit sector. I am so proud to be both a founding member and the current President of the collegiate chapter at the University of Houston (AFP-UH). Through this organization, I am strengthening my understanding of fund development while gaining valuable fundraising experience and further building my professional network. I am so thankful for that opportunity and I am excited to see how AFP-UH continues to grow."

Ashley Boone, President, AFP U Houston
The CNP credential in Nonprofit Management is made up of four major components including: courses, leadership and service learning, attendance to the national conference, and a 480-hr internship. NLSA is the breeding ground for future CNPs, as they learn how to put theory in to action as professionals. From networking, programmatic planning, to creating committees, students organize various modules that ultimately turn into certification requirements for all NLA students.

President
Dancy Lukeman

Vice President
Nisa Ali

Secretary
Dominique Harrison

Treasurer
Amy Chittenden

Fundraising
Erin Clayton

Marketing & Membership
Diana Pineda

Fall Retreat
Maria Huerta

Fall Workshops
Ashley Boone

Community Outreach & Alumni Liaison
Ashley Dorsett

Career Development Institute (CDI)
Leola Donaldson

2015-16 Theme:
#NONPROFITLIFE
Leadership
Involvement
Friendship
Experience
NLA students are required to attend three (3) site visits to obtain certification. Every year, the site visits vary, exposing students to multiple nonprofit organizations and various agencies within Houston. The site visits typically last two hours and students assist the organization or agency in multiple ways through volunteer work.

“It’s amazing to see a diverse group of individuals come together for the sole purpose of not only learning about a nonprofit, but also volunteering their time to help serve the community. At Nature Discovery Center, the girls got out of their comfort zone and removed 3 ligustrum plants using loppers, handheld saws, and good ole muscle. They came together and through teamwork and communication, removed all three plants in less than 90 minutes. By the end, the girls were thrilled that they accomplished what seemed like an impossible goal. The heart and determination the people of NLSA have is something unique and of itself. I’m grateful for the opportunity to work alongside them and hopefully in the future.”

Amy Chittenden, Intern and Site Visit Coordinator, Nature Discovery Center

WHERE DID WE GO IN 2015-2016?

- Interfaith Ministries
- The Women's Home
- Project Cure
- Nature Discovery Center
- Star of Hope
- Houston Area Women's Center (HAWC)
Fall Retreat 2015
FROM THE STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

Prior to Fall Retreat, I did not know what to expect, this was the very first event I was attending after joining the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance (NLA) and it turned out to be one of the greatest experiences of my academic career.

Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston was gracious enough to allow us to use their space and give us an inside look at their organization. If I had to choose a favorite part of this day, I would not be able to; everything we did at Fall Retreat was enjoyable and enriching.

In 8 hours, we were able to experience the ins and outs of an amazing non-profit organization, gain knowledge from current NLA students, acquire wisdom from NLA alumni, learn lots from team building exercises, gain insight into my personal strengths, and best of all, got to know all of the wonderful people taking the NLA journey with me.

Everything we did during Fall Retreat had a purpose and that’s what I love about NLA: all of the activities and events we do are meaningful in educating and preparing us for our futures as CNPs.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to attend Fall Retreat and am excited for my future with NLA and as a CNP! -Jessica Dominguez:

A special Thank You to our host Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston
Fall Workshop Series

As a part of certification, students are required to complete the fall workshop series. This series is comprised of four (4) workshops focusing on any one (or combination) of the 10 NLA competencies. See which topics were covered in Fall 2015 (RIGHT).

- Making the Ask with Dini Spheris
- Technology Tools for Social Enterprise and Community Collaboration with Erin Brackney
- Volunteer and Talent Management with Frances Parent
- Dealing with Diversity in Fund Development with Dr. Vida Avery & Carme Williams

My first introduction to NLA was at the Fall Retreat in 2014. I had not yet met anyone and I was really nervous and scared. By the end of the retreat, I made my first NLA friend and joined the community outreach committee. I had an amazing experience and it felt like it was a natural way to meet new people.

I went to the Fall Retreat in 2015 as an officer and I was even more excited than nervous to be there, because I knew what was going on.

Going into the retreat, I wanted to be that person who would help people and welcome them into the NLA program.

-Dominique Harrison

Thank You to our CNPs who helped Fall Retreat 2015 be a success:
Anthony Rivera (Facilitator) Nancy Rodriguez (Panelist)
Tara Roper (Panelist)

GCSW Tailgate & Football
AMI Fundraising

Each Fall NLA students kick-off their annual AMI campaign by fundraising to attend the national conference in January of the following year.

Through this simulation students are able to learn three (3) methods of fundraising:

- Letter Writing
- Cold Calling
- Major Gift Ask

A Special Thank You to the:
AMI 2016 Donors
&
Host Committee Members
Diana Pineda: AMI 2016 was my first ever AMI and I was so happy that it was going to be in Houston. I was even more excited that our keynote speaker would be the CEO of Make-A-Wish, David Williams.

My dream is to one day work for Make-A-Wish and to know he would be in the same building gave me chills. I saw him sitting at a table all by himself and my friends encouraged me to approach him, so I did. We discussed how much our NLA chapter has grown, how important the NLA program is, what PES is, how much I love Make-A-Wish, and how much UH was growing. After our conversation, I gave him my business card and got ready to hear his speech.

Later in the afternoon, he emailed me and said it was a pleasure to have met me. I took a bold step and literally in an email asked him to be my mentor and he said yes! We now have monthly phone calls and I have really learned a lot from those interactions.

Ruben Galvan attended AMI Houston with NLSA, in January of this year. He was amazed with how many opportunities were available to network with so many nonprofit professionals, stating:

“The best nugget I took away from it was, put yourself out there so you can actually network with other people to get better at talking about what you want to do and figuring out where you want to go in your career”.

Ashley Dorsett: I served on the AMI committee and I had an amazing experience. I got to personally see how AMI works, meet all the speakers, and also got to network with all of them. I decided to be on the committee because I knew it would be a beneficial experience for my career as a future CNP. I was able to see the logistics of everything and see how they coordinated a national conference.

As a student, I very much enjoyed it. I loved the keynote speaker, David Williams, and the quick fire sessions. My favorite quick fire session was with Chad from YMCA Greater America. I would definitely encourage all NLA students to apply to be on the AMI national planning committee.
The Flo McGee Career Development Institute (CDI)

Named for a long time influencer and advocate for NLA, this one day training institute is hosted by the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance (NLA) program and provides NLA student participants with resources that will assist them in gaining and refining their competitive edge in the nonprofit sector.

Each Spring an elected Student Officer is designated as the CDI Chair.

Ms. Leola Donaldson was chosen to execute this event in conjunction with NLA Staff, NLA Leadership Circle members: Allison Wright Brooks and Ronnie Hagerty, along with her committee comprised of four (4) additional students: Brandi Boak, Karen Hernandez, Mary Ifebuzor and Donnetta Shelby.

Fund Development Workshop Series (Spring)

GROUP PRESENTATIONS
Girls Inc: Jessica Dominguez, Mary Ifebuzor, Micah Natividad, Taylor Tardy
Ronald McDonald House: Ruben Galvan, Kennedy Pillow, Ruben Galvan
Vita-Living: Rebecca Baker, Kara Hernandez, Shayna Powers, Chris Yarneau
El Centro de Corazon: Brandi Boak, Yocselid Garcia, Emily Johnson, Tara VanDerpoel
Souper Bowl of Caring: Jasper Balom, Karen Beltran, Francheska Durias
Parris Foundation: Loren Avillaneda, Brittni Leavitt, Donnetta Shelby

“The Spring Workshop Series provided a platform for me to develop a completed project to show to prospective employers and an experience in professional presentation.”
- Alex Mackzum

The Spring workshops were essential in helping me understand the fund development operations in a non profit organization. Not only are we showered with knowledge, but we are able to put what we have learned to practice. Although it was tough to dedicate my Fridays to the workshops, it was definitely worth it!

- Lorena Avillaneda

DINI SPHERIS
Leading by Insight • Driven by purpose

A Special THANK YOU to the Dini Spheris team

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- Lorena Avillaneda
Throughout the course of the day, students learned about dining etiquette, resume building, networking and more.

CDI 2016 included the following Guest Speakers:

- Matt Avery, Dini Spheris
- Allison Wright Brooks, Brooks-Stacy, LLC
- Sherry Bernard, YMCA of Greater Houston
- Lauren Berryhill, UH Career Services
- April Day, Women’s Business Enterprise Alliance
- Amber McCarthy, UT Health Science Center at Houston
- Anne Murphy, Dini Spheris
- Ed Smith, Ed Smith & Associates, LLC
- Natasha Wade, Career Strategist, LLC

The Nonprofit Professional Panel is designed to offer students insight from a Nonprofit Executive point of view.

Panelists included:

- Beatrice Garza, AAMA–Association for the Advancement of Mexican Americans
- Brian Greene, Houston Food Bank
- Judson Robinson III, Houston Area Urban League
- Amanda Timm, LISC–Local Initiatives Support Corporation
- Cristina Vetrano, Kids’ Meals
- (Moderator) Ronnie Hagerty, United Way of Greater Houston

A Special THANK YOU

to the CNPs (NLA Alumni) for attending
#NonprofitLIFE

LEADERSHIP

INVolVEMENT

FRIENDSHIP

EXPERIENCE
2015-16 Leadership Circle

Mrs. Allison Wright Brooks, Chair
Mrs. Jennifer Battle, LMSW, CNP
Mrs. Jan Carroll, MSW
Mrs. Katie K. Daggett, CFRE
Mrs. April Day, MBA, CNP
Ms. Emelda Douglas, CFRE
Mrs. Joan Dunlap
Mrs. Ronnie Hagerty, PhD, CFRE
Mr. Rick Herrman
Mr. Todd Litton
Mrs. Flo McGee
Mrs. M. Anne Murphy
Mr. Paul Murphy
Mr. Wayne Norden
Ms. Margaret O’Donnell
Mrs. Becky Pivec
Mrs. Angela Seaworth, ACFRE
Mr. Ed Smith
Mrs. Mary Beth Staine

2015-16 CNP Candidates

Carolina Aguilar
Nisa Nizar Ali
Fatimah Bafagih
Christie S. Bennett
Ashley Boone
Amy Melissa Chittenden
Erin Clayton
Kate Daniel
Leola Donaldson
Noemi Lynn Gonzalez
Dancy Lukeman
Jessica Maria Orozco
Le’ah Kiara Yarber

2015-16 NLA Staff

Alan Dettlaff, PhD
Dean and Maconda Brown O’Connor Endowed Dean’s Chair
Melanie Barr Fitzpatrick, MSW
Program Director

Jamie Parker, LMSW, Director of Field Education
Amber Rangel, CNP
Program Coordinator

College Work-Studys:
Serjio Brereda
Mahera Zafer